

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application No. 10/615,329

Applicant: Hashimoto et al.

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Examiner: Tucker, Z. C.

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Customer No.: 23460

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated October 2, 2006, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 30 of this paper.